

8th U.S. Army's

November 2005

ROK Steady

Korean War Vet Honored
Medics Train to Save Lives
MPs Train to React
Special Forces Take to the Sky
The National Museum of Korea
Exploring Gyeongju

8th Army Commemorative Print

ROK Steady

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MEDICS TAKE TO THE FIELD

12

4 Command Focus

6 Notes

8 Civilian evacuation exercise

16 MPs train & react

26 Korean War Vet honored

32 The National Museum

40 BOSS

42 What's going on



COMMEMORATIVE PRINT

20



CHEONGGYECHEON STREAM

30



EXPLORING GYEONGJU

36



FLYING THE FRIENDLY SKIES

18

8TH U.S. ARMY CHALLENGES SOLDIERS

By Lt. Gen. Charles C. Campbell
Commander, 8th U.S. Army

As we begin the holiday season, I would like Soldiers on the Peninsula to focus on Safety. November was the Army's Safety Month and I challenge all commands to emphasize safety as a readiness issue for the fiscal year 2006.

Accidents result in loss of precious resources and decrease our warfighting capabilities. We experienced three fatalities during the first nine months of FY05; compared to only one for all of FY04.

Overall, there was a 44 percent increase in the total number of accidents from the same period last year (five aviation accidents compared to zero and 80 ground accidents compared to 59 during the same period of last year).

Reviews of these accidents revealed that most of our increases were caused by Army motor vehicles (23 vs. 16)

"I am convinced that...
accident reductions are
achievable through **safety
education**, awareness
and discipline."

and sports/recreation (14 vs. 7) accidents. Most motor vehicle accidents continue to be caused by excessive speed, following too closely or poor situational awareness. Our sports/recreation personal injuries were mostly caused by football or soccer activities.

The upward trend is troublesome and one that must be reversed. Commanders must get involved to affect a positive change.

We all should be committed to reducing accidents and I want you to be committed as well. Apply the risk management process to everything you do, on and off duty and ensure that all activities are accomplished to standard.

Leaders should target indiscipline, driver's training and standards for the largest impact. Establishing a command climate that encourages safe behavior and performance by all personnel in the command will serve as an enabler to safe behavior on and off duty.

We must renew our downward accident trend of FY04. I am convinced that in spite of living and training in the second most densely populated country in the world, with conditions constantly changing and high turnover, accident reductions are achievable through safety education, awareness and discipline.

Our goal is to not have a fatality of major accident this year. We can accomplish this goal if everyone keeps safety at the forefront in all they do.

8th U.S. Army's posture as a warfighting force will be sustained while decreasing possibilities for mishaps affecting the local community and ensure that the very best trained servicemembers continue to serve on the Korean Peninsula.

Be Safe -- Be Prepared to Fight Tonight!



THE ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS UNIFORM

By Command Sgt. Maj. Barry Wheeler

Command Sergeant Major, UNC/CFC/USFK/8th U.S. Army

Troops should wear their service's physical fitness uniform during daily organized physical training (0600-0730) regardless of their status (leave, pass, TDY, etc.) When performing PT at other times of the day, they get a vote, but not during organized PT periods.

Headphones are not authorized for wear at any time with the physical fitness uniform. This includes indoors (gyms) and out. Bottom line: headphones are not a part of the physical fitness "uniform."

Daily physical training should be a workout. While unit commanders have the latitude to conduct sports and other intramural activities, it should not normally be performed during the designated daily PT period. The daily PT period is designed to improve our Soldier's performance against the Army's standard of measurement (the Army physical fitness test) and METL related requirements. Organized athletics have their place...just not normally during the unit's normal daily physical fitness periods. A method might be to allow sports on Tuesdays in order to allow a day of rest for those muscles which were trained to "muscle failure" on Monday and so they can be ready for more on Wednesday! I might buy that as a methodology, but many units are allowing troops to do sports more than they do organized physical training. There are only so many days in a week...don't violate the FITT principle (Frequency, Intensity, Time and Type). Remember this as well: Being a Soldier in the Army is an outdoor sport! You don't get in shape for pushups by holding up the walls of the local gymnasium.

Socks should be white, with no logos of ANY type. While anklets are now authorized, IAW AR 670-1, they should cover the ball of the ankle. Many are the troops who think they can wear anklets which give the appearance of no socks. Wrong!

The 8th U.S. Army Standards Handbook mandates the wear of a "reflective vest" when performing any physical training activity. Many troops are wearing reflective belts or no reflective gear at all. Get them in vests; they are much more visible from all angles. This is very important as we approach the time of year where daylight decreases.

No part of the PFU is currently authorized to be worn with civilian clothes, IAW the 8th U.S. Army Standards Handbook. As you know, we are updating the handbook. If you think we should allow the jacket to be worn, then say so. To date, I've not seen that suggested in any of the input I've received from CSMs. Until we authorize it in writing, we don't allow it.

As you travel around during PT on your camps, you probably will notice the majority of these uniform violations are junior NCOs and junior officers...oftentimes in the vicinity of their more senior leadership. The fact that senior leadership is not correcting the subordinate leader-



ship is why we see so many violations. I sure hope it's not because they don't know the standard themselves!

Lastly, a very smart officer sent me the following comment. Please read it carefully as it is very good information to put into your rucksack:

The absolute best thing I learned at IG school in preparing me to be a division IG following battalion command (and I've applied the TTP ever since) was the Root Cause Analysis Model (i.e., the technique used to determine the reason for non-compliance with a standard). I taught this to my officers/NCOs and it worked wonders in fixing non-compliance issues at the first line leadership level.

Bottom line: the Root Cause Analysis Model states there are generally three reasons why Soldiers/units don't comply with published standards:

(1) **THEY DON'T KNOW THE STANDARD ... because (a) they never knew the standard, (b) they forgot the standard, or (c) it was an implied task/standard they simply overlooked; or**

(2) **THEY CAN'T COMPLY WITH THE STANDARD ... because (a) it's not a priority, (b) there are insufficient resources, or (c) it's an impossibility; or**

(3) **THEY WON'T COMPLY WITH THE STANDARD ... because (a) there's no reward/recognition for complying with the standard, (b) there's no punishment/recourse for not complying with the standard, or (c) they just simply disagree with the standard and refuse to comply regardless.**



8th U.S. Army has been awarded the Chief of Staff, Army, Major Command Safety Award. To be nominated for the award commands must have had a three percent reduction in at least four areas during the fiscal year. Those areas are aviation accidents, army motor vehicle, on duty personal injuries, off duty personal injuries, civilian injuries, and accidental deaths.

"Our Army is very proud and we have had a tremendous challenge here that last three years. You have led the way in accident prevention. You have made a significant contribution to combat readiness," Smith said.

A letter from Gen. Peter Shoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, congratulating the chain of command said that, "Your accident prevention efforts saved Soldiers' lives and prevented injuries. I'm proud of you and the 8th United States Army."



Spc. Rodney Roby

Calm under fire... 2ID Soldier awarded Bronze Star with Valor

2nd Infantry Division's Spc. Rodney Roby was recently awarded the Bronze Star with Valor for his actions during Operation Phantom Fury while deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom. According to the award, Spc. Roby's tank came into contact with four anti-Iraqi forces insurgents. While in close proximity of the tank, the insurgents engaged the tank



with heavy rifle fire and rocket propelled grenades. Due to the terrain and the restricted quarters, it was impossible to depress the main weapon systems low enough to engage the enemy. While under direct fire and without regard for his own personal safety, he engaged the insurgents with small arms fire and hand grenades - killing three and wounding the fourth. His actions single-handedly eliminated the threat and ensured the safety of his crew and vehicle. For the full story on Roby, pick up the next issue of the ROK Steady.



Oct. 3 marked the 12-year anniversary of the bloody battle of Mogadishu. In the midst of a brutal famine the United States entered Somalia to render humanitarian aide. The mission quickly became something else when Somali warlords began interfering with the aide missions.

Oct. 3 U.S. Rangers were given the task of finding a local warlord named Mohammed Farrah Aidid. The Rangers were ambushed and the ensuing battle was captured in the movie Blackhawk Down. To read more: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ambush/>.

The website contains interviews with some of the Rangers involved in the fight, aerial photos and a link to play the full program that ran on PBS.

LINKS TO MILITARY BLOGGERS

Blackfive: www.blackfive.com

The Mudville Gazette: www.mudvillegazette.com

Way Down In Kosovo: <http://waydowninkosovo.blogspot.com>

Soldier's Wife: www.waitinginboston.blogspot.com

A Day In Iraq: www.adayiniraq.com

Doc In the Box: <http://docinthebox.blogspot.com>

My War: Killing Time In Iraq: <http://cbftw.blogspot.com>

Drill Sergeant Rob: <http://anamericansoldier.blogspot.com>

Life As A Baghdad Babe: <http://iraqifreedomadventure.blogspot.com>

Dagger Jag: <http://daggerjag.blogspot.com>

Baldilocks: <http://baldilocks.blogspot.com>

Citizen Smash: www.lt-smash.us

Baghdad Burning: <http://riverbendblog.blogspot.com>

A Line In the Sand: www.missick.com

Pinwheels and Orange Peels: <http://iangela.typepad.com>

Just Another Soldier: <http://blog.justanothersoldier.com>

Frontline Blogs: www.frontlineblogs.com

Faces From the Front: www.facesfromthefront.com

Army Girl: www.desertphoenix.blogspot.com

GI Korea: <http://jetiranger.tripod.com/BLOG>

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SMOKING CESSATION



Pfc. Josiah Robinson is administered a carbon-monoxide test by Capt. Jennie Polk during activities at the Great American Smoke Out.

No matter how much or how long you've smoked, when you quit smoking, your risk of heart disease starts to drop. One year after quitting, your risk of death from heart attack is cut in half.

To learn about Smoking Cessation or any other health related questions, call 730-3524. Photo by Pfc. Amanda Merfeld

ACCORDING TO AR 670-1...

Soldiers may carry civilian gym bags, civilian rucksacks or other similar civilian bags while in uniform.

Soldiers may carry these bags by hand, on one shoulder using a shoulder strap or over both shoulders using both shoulder straps. If the Soldier opts to carry a bag over one shoulder, the bag must be carried on the same side of the body as the shoulder strap; therefore, Soldiers may not carry the bag slung across the body with the strap over the opposite shoulder. If Soldiers choose to carry a shoulder bag while in uniform, the bag must be black with no other colors and may not have any logos. The contents of the bag may not be visible; therefore, see-through plastic or mesh bags are not authorized. There is no restriction on the color of civilian bags carried in the hand. These rules do not apply to purses, which are covered in chapter 27 of this regulation. Commanders govern the wear of organizational issue rucksacks in garrison and field environments.

AVOIDING COLD WEATHER INJURIES

-If you've just arrived in a cold climate from a warmer one, give your body time to adjust before spending extended periods outside. Avoid drinking alcohol before or during exposure to cold weather; alcohol may prevent you from realizing that your body is becoming too cold.

-Avoid smoking cigarettes, which can affect your blood vessels, increasing your risk of frostbite.

-At the first sign of redness or pain in your skin, which may indicate frostbite is developing, get out of the cold or protect the exposed skin.

-To reduce your risk of frostbite, dress properly in cold temperatures. This includes protecting your hands, feet, nose and ears. Bundle in warm, layered and loose fitted clothing, a hat and scarf (or a ski mask), warm socks and mittens (not gloves). Make sure children are properly bundled, too.

-Go inside periodically to warm up.



Courageous Channel Exercise participants stand on the flight line before boarding their flight to Japan. Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein

Exercise prepares noncombatants for evacuation

By Cpl. Sadie Bleistein, Assistant editor

As a Soldier, it is essential to the mission to know your family is safe and out of harms way in the time of a disaster or emergency and that is what the Courageous Channel Exercise prepares for, a safe evacuation of all noncombatants from the Peninsula.

The second Courageous Channel fly-away exercise of the year was Oct. 28 – 30.

The fly-away brought volunteers from all Areas to Daegu, South Korea and flew them to Yokota, Air Base, Japan free of charge to include lodging and meals, to simulate an evacuation during a time of crisis.

United States Forces Korea implemented new equipment into this Noncombatant Evacuation Operation to

help the process of evacuating civilians and family members.

“USFK, in a continuous effort to improve its ability to conduct NEO, recently upgraded the computer hardware used throughout the theater to account for and track noncombatants in NEO channels,” said Master Sgt. James Hardin, Area II NEO coordinator running the operation in Seoul, Korea. “While the software application itself, dubbed the NEO Tracking System, is largely unchanged, the equipment we use to run it is new.

“Utilizing what is called Thin Client technology, USFK has implemented a much more capable, flexible, scalable, secure and inexpensive system on the Peninsula. As NTS is a DoD-wide system, the folks who run the NTS program

at DoD were very interested in the Thin Client solution designed and developed in-house at USFK J36 and were on hand during the exercise to evaluate it. When USFK completes the Thin Client NTS solution validation, it is possible that it could be adopted for use by other commands around the world.”

Not only was new equipment involved in the evacuation exercise, but new technology was introduced and tested to allow noncombatants to register themselves and their family at the convenience of doing it from their home.

“This past Courageous Channel exercise also unveiled the ‘next step’ in NTS technology,” said Hardin. “A Web-

See Fly-Away on pg 10

Civilian volunteers sail to Japan, help test NEO process

By Sgt. Jimmy Norris, 19th TSC PAO

While the bulk of the Courageous Channel exercise involves processing paperwork, verifying the contents of Noncombatant Evacuation Operation packets and making sure potential evacuees understand what to expect in the event of an emergency, all of that work is pointless if the process doesn’t do what it’s supposed to – ensure U.S. Forces Korea’s noncombatants can be efficiently moved to safety.

From Oct. 28 - 30, 40 civilian volunteers and military escorts used various means of transportation to prove that the system does indeed work.

“The intent is to exercise the evacuation of noncombatants on a small scale so that we can execute it on a large scale,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Hampton, Combined Joint Operations, USFK. Hampton served as the escort officer during the exercise.

Hampton said the processes used during the sail-away exercise were the same processes that would be used during an actual emergency. Thirty-two other evacuees participated in a separate “fly-away” evacuation to Yokota, Japan.

Hampton said using multiple means of evacuation was essential to realistic training. “Because of the sheer number of evacuees that would need to be evacuated during an emergency, we need to have multiple options.”

After processing through their evacuation control centers and being issued bar-coded bracelets that, when scanned through the NEO Tracking System, would provide information of their movements in and out of Korea, evacuees boarded military helicopters, trains and buses then made their way south. Some, living as far north as Uijongbu, near Camp Red Cloud, started their day as early as 2 a.m. Others living as far south as Waegwan, near Camp Carroll, got to sleep in as late as 4 a.m.

By noon, the evacuees had cleared Korean immigration and boarded a high-speed boat from Busan to Fukuoka, Japan.

They completed the last leg of the journey with a three-and-a-half-hour bus ride from Fukuoka to Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station.

By the end of the day some passengers had been traveling more than 17 hours. While some complained about cramped buses and long hours on the move, others were thrilled with the trip.

“I thought it was cool. I got to go somewhere I’ve never been before and seeing Japan from the window of the boat was really pretty,” said Dallas Onkst, age 11, a

See Sail-Away on pg 11

Fly-Away...

centric prototype machine was tested at Collier Emergency Control Center and showed a great deal of promise. By drawing noncombatant data from an external database, the Web-centric machine registered noncombatant at a rate many times faster than even the new Thin Client NTS system.

“The Web-centric prototype, after some additional refinement and validation, should allow noncombatants to pre-register from their home or office, saving the data required to complete NTS processing to a central database. After pre-registration, a noncombatant’s ID card or passport scan is all that is needed to receive an NTS tracking bracelet, all other data are automatically drawn from the pre-registration database.”

Volunteers from Area II were put through this new process Oct. 27, the day before the actual fly-away.

Area II volunteers were solicited and selected by a random lottery drawing Oct. 6.

“Selectees were notified and two preparatory briefings were conducted prior to the exercise,” said Hardin. “The first was an overview of the trip, the second was to inspect NEO packets and passports to ensure no unnecessary delays happened at the ECC or the port.”

The fly-away volunteers from Area II were told to be at Collier Field House Oct. 28 by 6 a.m. and ready for movement by 6:30 a.m. Volunteers were all given a bracelet with a barcode. Before departing Collier Field House, the bracelets were scanned for accountability. The volunteers were then bused to a train station where they traveled by rail to Daegu, Korea for the Airport Embarkation to Yokota, Japan by way of a C-130, military aircraft. Before departing Daegu, the bracelets were scanned again for accountability and a boxed lunch was served.

Once the volunteers arrived in Yokota, Air Base, Japan, Their bracelets were again scanned. Once all were accounted for, they were briefed by community health on the dangers one might face in Japan. They were then led to an auditorium where they were issued room keys for billeting at the Kanto Lodge which is on Yokota AB and another boxed meal was given out.

Volunteers were offered a free trip to Tokyo or a number of activities to choose from for entertainment Saturday.

One of the “free day” activities for the fly-away volunteers was a trip to the Tokyo Waterfront Area and River cruise sponsored by USFK. Here volunteers were able to see the Thunder Gate, “Kaminarimon,” which is a vermillion-lacquered gate which stands at the entrance to a shopping lane called Nakamise Avenue and displays the front of the Main Hall of the Sensoji Temple. After that, volunteers cruised the river and saw the Japanese garden, “Hamarikyu,” which used to be a Shogun palace.

Another trip offered to the volunteers was a tour offered by the Family Support Center on Yokota Air Force Base to a five-story 100 Yen Store, similar to America’s dollar stores. Other shops were also in the surrounding area of the 100 Yen store, including Tokyu Hands, and various Japanese stores.

Or if a volunteer preferred, they could explore Japan

on their own. Maps of local areas, the train station and the subway station were supplied to everyone along with an emergency card and a sheet of needed Japanese phrases.

Oct. 30 was the last day of the trip. Volunteers gathered in the lobby of the Kanto Lodge at 3 a.m. and were bused to the airport on Yokota. Once everyone was accounted for, it was time to get on the C-130 and head back to Daegu, Korea. Once in Daegu, Area II volunteers headed back to Yongsan by train and another NEO exercise was successfully completed.

“This exercise gave our volunteers a great appreciation for the amount of detail and planning involved in a NEO operation,” said Lt. Col. William Bither, escort officer on the exercise. “We practice this exercise several times a year in order to maintain proficiency and train new personnel to Korea. This exercise went very smooth considering all the different modes of transportation, international travel and accountability requirements.

“We can always improve our systems for accountability, immigrations and processing personnel. We will continue to capture our lessons learned from this last exercise in order to make the next one better.”

USFK is continually learning from the experience and the feedback of the volunteers involved in the NEO exercises to improve the system for the next exercise and a real-world situation.

“Our ability to execute this mission to standard steadily increases,” said Hardin. “Though no one hopes to ever have to execute NEO, I am confident that the job will get done should it be required. Preparation on the part of noncombatants, pro-activity on the parts of commanders and NEO wardens, and participation in Courageous Channel exercises are all keys to future success. Volunteer evacuees are particularly valuable as they actually experience each aspect of a NEO and return to provide constructive feedback to NEO planners.”



NEO participants relax aboard a C-130 on their way to Japan.

Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein



Left: The view of Mount Fuji. *Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein*

Below: A Soldier scans the wrist band of a NEO participant.

Photo by Sgt. Jimmy Norris



Sail-Away...

family member from Yongsan.

The sail-away wasn’t all business. On the second day of the exercise, participants took the opportunity to visit the Peace Park in Hiroshima. There, sightseers had the chance to see museums, monuments and ruined structures resulting from the detonation of the atomic bomb in 1945.

“I enjoyed the museum and the park. It was something new and I probably wouldn’t have had the opportunity to see Japan if I hadn’t volunteered for this trip,” said Tammy Smith, a volunteer whose husband is assigned to the 6th Ordnance Battalion at Camp Carroll.

As much as participants seemed to enjoy the sight-seeing portion of the exercise, some voiced concerns about the evacuation process.

“I think they just don’t have it figured out,” said Brock Albin, a family member from Camp Humphreys. “There are problems with these bracelets and they couldn’t scan some of the IDs.”

Hampton said this kind of volunteer feedback was crucial to the success of the mission, and cited improvements made to the exercise based on feedback from the previous sail-aways, when the boat from Korea to Japan was damaged after striking what many believe was a whale, and forced passengers to await rescue in lifeboats.

“Based on [feedback from participants] we made considerable changes,” said Hampton.

Changes included improved command and control, additional communications equipment, and the presence of a doctor on the sail-away.

“The presence of these volunteers is essential to our mission objective of assessing and improving our evacuation process,” Hampton said.



Practice makes perfect

Medics take to the field

Story and photos by Furman Neeley
USASA Area III PAO

Explosions and smoke filled the air as bodies littered the ground at Camp Humphreys this week. No, it wasn't a terrorist attack but a medical field training exercise that brought medical specialists from all over the United States and the Peninsula together into one cohesive unit to practice their medical and Soldiering skills.

Right: A participant consults with an instructor during the NBC phase of the exercise. Below: A medic gives immediate aid to an injured Soldier.



“In a **real world** situation there might not be enough medical assets on hand to **handle the situation** and still maintain full operations in the rear.”

- Capt. Clayton Carr

The exercise is planned to take place quarterly and Capt. Clayton Carr, of Company B, 168th Medical Battalion in Yongsan was chosen as commander of the first quarter exercise.

“We have a good operation going on,” Carr said. “In a real world situation there might not be enough medical assets on hand to handle the situation and still maintain full operations in the rear,” Carr said. That’s why it’s important for unrelated units to train to work together.”

These unrelated elements are known as professional fillers or “PROFIS”. “I am really pleased with our Soldiers’ morale and motivation,” Carr said.

“Not only from our battalion’s Soldiers, but from our professional fillers too. Anytime we transition to hostilities, they become an iatrical part of our unit. We want to create some scenarios where they can get some super training.”

The “PROFIS” joined four Soldier medic companies already on the Peninsula

and rotated them through several different training scenarios. One scenario had the medics triaging and treating casualties from an improvised explosive device.

Another scenario had them evaluating the scene of a chemical agent attack and decontaminating mass casualties.

“With mass casualties, we want to stabilize what we can here on the battlefield,” said Carr. “After we triage them, we call up to the battalion level and decide who we’ll have to evacuate out of here.”

Carr sees the exercise as valuable training for commanders too. “I’m the first one in the chute for training this year,” he said. “Every time you do something for the first time, you’ve got a lot of great things happening and a lot of lessons learned.”

“We want to build up some after action review comments so that when the next commander comes in to test their command and control, he can improve the training with the remaining Soldiers that didn’t get to participate in this exercise.”



Soldiers carry wounded troops out of the woods and to awaiting medical vehicles.



SPECIAL REACTION TEAM

MP special teams prepare to react to any situation

Story and Photos by Spc. Van Tran, 8th MP Brigade



Silhouetted against the setting sun, six armed, black-clad Soldiers swiftly and quietly approach a building.

A battering ram crashes down a door, concussion grenades explode inside and the team emerges minutes later with a safe hostage and two criminals in custody.

Exhibiting skills necessary to carry out their missions, the 94th MP Battalion's Special Reaction Team carried out joint demonstrations with the Republic of Korea Special Guard Team Sept. 7 at the Ministry of National Defense. The 94th MP Bn. Commander, Lt. Col. Jeffery Davies, and ROK Brig. Gen. Park Sung-kyo, commanding general of the Ministry of National Defense's support activities, watched as the Soldiers exhibited their skills.

"It's very important that both teams know each others' capabilities because you never know if there will be a breach in the wire," said Master Sgt. Dennis Stockwell, 8th MP Brigade. SRT noncommissioned officer in charge.

"The fact that the two teams are so close to each other could mean we might have to help each other."

A crowd of military officials watched the ROK SGT display their skills by rappelling from helicopters, searching buildings and fighting in hand-to-hand combat.

To show their abilities, the SRT neutralized a bus hijacking. The team approached the bus with speed and precision, securing the outer perimeter. A breaching squad then entered through the door and windows of the bus.

Moments later, the squad exited with three suspects in custody.

"The team really benefits from tactical and realistic training," said Sgt. Anthony Street, a SRT member.

The day ended with Park examining the SGT's and SRT's equipment.

"It is an honor to work side-by-side with the U.S. Soldiers," said Park. "I look forward to many more exciting training exercises."

Flying the friendly skies

ROK/U.S. Forces train for high-altitude jumps

Story and photos by Spc. Daniel Love, Staff

At 9,000 feet above Misari dropzone near Guri, Seoul, people on the ground didn't look like ants. They weren't visible at all. The air was below-freezing temperature, and winds rushed through the open rear door of a CH-47 Chinook.

The bird was filled with Special Forces Soldiers who were ready to jump when the light turned green. Moments before the red and green lights traded 'on' status, a jumpmaster stood up, checked his surroundings, gave his team the appropriate signals, waited for the light and then led his men into the freezing sky.

U.S. Special Forces Soldiers in Southern Seoul trained 24 South Korean counterparts to U.S. standards of High-Altitude, Low-Opening jumpmaster techniques during two and a half weeks of training in early November to increase interoperability between the two countries.

"We are a combat multiplier," said Maj. Robert Burmaster, 39th Special Forces Detachment (Airborne) commander.

"The more we increase U.S. and Korean interoperability and understanding, the more cohesive we are during operations."

The special operations mission requires Soldiers to be able to effectively deploy any time to any location. HALO and HAHO (high opening) are useful methods for insertion of Special Forces Soldiers.

"HALO is used to insert small teams from high altitudes to a pinpoint target very rapidly, but without the noise of a low-flying aircraft," said Sgt. Maj. Jack Hagan, detachment sergeant major.

"HAHO is to insert small teams from a high altitude in which the chute is opened at a high altitude, and the team quietly navigates under canopy to a distant target."

All of the 24 Republic of Korea Army students became jumpmaster qualified. The jumpmasters trained in every action that occurs between the ground preparation to the aircraft, and back down to the ground.

Hagan said that having qualified jumpmasters from

both armies assures interoperability and safety standards.

While HALO is meant to be used as an all-purpose insertion method, free-falling in Korea provides some unique challenges. As with other training in the ROK, the rugged terrain and busy city had to be taken into account.

"The airspace is very restrictive near the cities and airfields in any country," said Hagan. "The high elevation mountains of Eastern Korea are a terrain restriction. Water and urban areas are always an obstacle, and we're surrounded by both. This leaves very few compatible places to conduct HALO/HAHO training operations in the ROK."

The challenges didn't present as much of problem as they could have because after all, Special Forces are trained to adapt. All of the previously experienced ROK jumpers qualified and left the course with a new experience.

"There is no greater feeling of complete loneliness and fear of the unknown than to be standing on the tailgate of a high-performance aircraft at 25,000 feet at night," said Hagan.

"You only have the knowledge that your jumpmaster has intimately inspected your equipment and has rehearsed your actions with you over and over, and if you follow those actions, you will succeed. Your jumpmaster has insured this."



A member of the South Korean special Forces takes advantage of a green-light opportunity 9,000 feet above Misari dropzone during HALO jumpmaster training Nov. 9.



It is my distinct honor to present,

The 8th Army Commanding General's Commemorative Print.

A Soldier's service to his or her Nation is often

portrayed symbolically for future generations to share. This commemorative print is no exception.

Across the top of the print (on the following pages), surrounding the "Amphibious Eighth" shoulder patch is the proud heraldry of battles fought in Korea more than 50 years ago. On the top corners are pictorial reminders of the courage, resoluteness, and ability to endure hardship that is the trademark of all 8th U.S. Army Soldiers – past and present. In 1950, 8th U.S. Army was called upon to save and preserve a nation. Today, 8th U.S. Army is the cornerstone of history's most successful and enduring alliance that connects the people of the Republic of Korea with the people of the United States of America.

Across the bottom of the print, we pay tribute to the most important element of 8th U.S. Army— its Soldiers. Blended here is a mix of Soldiers – Soldiers from our glorious past and Soldiers of today -- who keep alive the spirit of "Ready to Fight Tonight!" Pictured are two Medal of Honor recipients from the Korean War. Cpl. Ronald E. Rosser, for actions in the vicinity of Ponggilli, Korea Jan. 12, 1952, and Sgt. Donn F. Porter, killed in action near Mundungni, Korea Sept. 7, 1952. The heroism and sacrifice of these two Soldiers remind us that there is a price to be paid for preserving freedom.

In the center of the print, a United States and Republic of Korea Soldier stand watch together "on the Demilitarized Zone" with the infamous North Korean "Propaganda Village" in the background. The fair weather to the left melding with the stormy clouds on the right symbolizes our common commitment -- to defend the Republic of Korea under any conditions.

On the left of the print is the "Imperial Five-Toed Dragon", worn as a symbol of the Korean emperors. Next to the Emperor's Dragon is a picture of Gen. James A. Van Fleet, Commanding General of 8th U.S. Army during the Korean War.

On the right of the print is the "Growling Tiger," which symbolizes the tenacious fighting spirit of the Korean people. The symbol and the mention of the word "tiger" is forever linked with the Republic of Korea's "Tiger Brigades" who fought side by side with 8th U.S. Army during the Korean War.

Finally, the portrait is complete by connecting the tiger with the picture of Gen. Van Fleet's closest professional colleague and friend – Gen. Paik, Sun Yup, who served as Republic of Korea Army division and corps commander and Army Chief of Staff during the Korean War.

As the Commanding General of the Eighth United States Army, it is my honor and privilege to present this special commemorative print to the Soldiers - past, present and future - of 8th U.S. Army.

- Charles C. Campbell

Lieutenant General, United States Army
Commanding General, 8th U.S. Army



Soldiers: Past, Present & Future

by George S. Gaadt

ABOUT THE ARTIST

George Stephen Gaadt, an American artist, illustrator, and portraiture painter, is from northwestern Pennsylvania. Educated at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, he recently received an honorary Masters of Visual Arts degree from that same institution as a reward for a career that has brought his reputation as a graphic innovator to the highest levels of the field.

Gaadt's professional activities and accomplishments are as extensive as the variety of work which he has produced. Historical subjects have always played a major role in his career. Noted for his attention to research as well as detail, Gaadt portrays the personalities, artifacts and architecture with special interest to that particular period of history.

For 25 years he has been an artist and photographer for the National Football League, in addition to creating art and design work for Major League Baseball, Football, and Basketball Halls of Fame and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

In 1976, Gaadt was featured in "200 Years of American Illustration" an exhibit and printed volume produced by the New York Society of Illustrators and the New York Historical Society to celebrate, in conjunction with our country, 200 years of greatness.





PACIFIC VICTORS
THE 8TH U.S.ARMY

Artist • George S. Gault



Gen. James A. Van Fleet graduated from United States Military Academy (West Point) in 1915 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Infantry.

He led U.S. troops under John J. "Black Jack" Pershing during the Mexican Revolution against Francisco "Pancho" Villa. He commanded the 17th Machine Gun Battalion in France during WWI and in WWII moved up in command from regiment to Division and Corps while fighting against the Germans. He led U.S. and U.N. forces during the Korean War as the 8th U.S. Army commander. President Truman called him America's "greatest general."

During his career, he earned more than 20 U.S. medals, including Distinguished Service Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Service Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Silver Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He also was authorized to wear the Combat Infantryman's Badge with two stars. Van Fleet died Sept. 23 1992, at age 100, in Washington, D.C., and is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery.



Cpl. Ronald E. Rosser entered the Army at the age of 17 Oct. 26, 1947. He went to basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. After getting out after a three year enlistment, he re-enlisted in the Army when war broke out in Korea, joining the 187th Airborne Division in Japan. But that division wouldn't be going back for six months or a year, so he volunteered to go to Korea. He went with about 100 other replacements and was assigned to the 38th Infantry regiment in the 2nd Infantry Division. Of the 100 replacements, every one was killed or wounded in Korea. His service in Ponggilli, Korea earned Rosser a place in history. He singlehandedly killed 13 enemy soldiers and though wounded, ran from cover numerous times to save his fellow troops. These actions earned him the Medal of Honor and a Purple Heart July 7, 1952.

After Korea, Rosser stayed in the Army. He had assignments at several places around the nation and world, including a tour in Korea in the late 1950s and time as a parachute instructor at Fort Benning. In 1958 he was selected to be one of the body bearers at the internment of the World War II and Korean War representatives at the Tomb of the Unknowns.



Sgt. Donn F. Porter was the only Airborne Ranger to be awarded the Medal of Honor during the Korean War. He distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. Advancing under cover of intense mortar and artillery fire, two hostile platoons attacked a combat outpost commanded by Sgt. Porter, destroyed communications, and killed two of his three-man crew. Gallantly maintaining his position, he poured deadly accurate fire into the ranks of the enemy, killing 15 and dispersing the remainder. After falling back under a hail of fire, the determined foe reorganized and stormed forward in an attempt to overrun the outpost. Without hesitation, Sgt. Porter jumped from his position with bayonet fixed. Meeting the onslaught and in close combat he killed six hostile soldiers and routed the attack. While returning to the outpost, he was killed by an artillery burst, but his courageous actions forced the enemy to break off the engagement and thwarted a surprise attack on the main line of resistance. When his body was found, he still clutched his rifle with the fixed bayonet rammed into the body of a North Korean soldier.

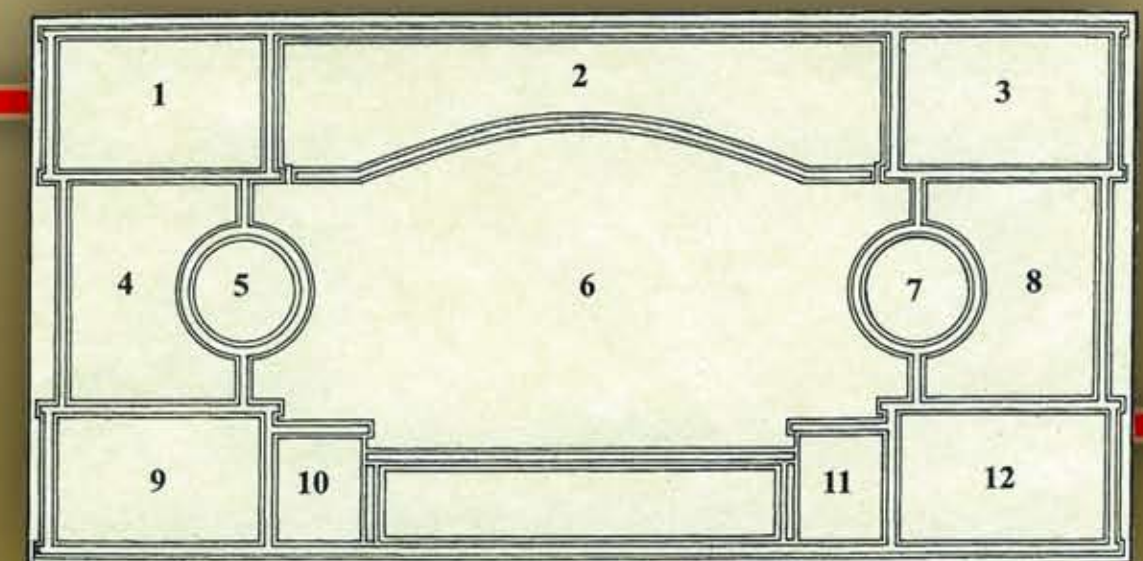
Gen. Paik, Sun Yup served as Republic of Korea (ROK) Army Division and Corps Commander and Army Chief of Staff during the Korean War.

After finishing his studies at Pyongyang Normal School, graduated from Manchuria's Mukden Military Academy in 1941, and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Manchurian Army. At the end of World War II, Paik recognized the influence the communists were gaining in China and northern Korea and in Dec. 1945 fled south. He was commissioned a 1st Lt. in the South Korean Constabulary; what would later become the ROK Army. Upon the outbreak from the Pusan Perimeter, operating under the U.S. I Corps, Gen. Paik led the ROK 1st Division's successful drive north and was first to enter Pyongyang. In Nov. 1951, General Van Fleet ordered the Task Force Paik to mount a campaign against guerilla activity in the Chiri Mountains of Southwestern South Korea. When the operation finished in March 1952, Task Force Paik had captured or killed an estimated 25,000 guerillas. In Jan. 1953, Gen. Paik Sun Yup was promoted to full general and became Korea's first officer to attain four-star rank. He retired from military service in 1960, and remains a legend in Korea.



1. American Soldiers advancing under fire during the Korean War.
2. Some of the 8th U.S. Army battles during the Korean War 1950-53: Pusan Perimeter, Chosin Rervoir, Chip'yong-ni, Operations Tomahawk, Battle of the Soyang and Heartbreak Ridge.
3. U.S. Soldier advances passed a tank unit during the brutal winter of 1952.
4. The Imperial Five-Toed Dragon; worn as a symbol of the Korean emperor.
5. Gen. James A. Van Fleet; commanding general of the 8th U.S. Army and veteran of the Pershing Expedition, World Wars I & II and the Korean War.
6. Current U.S. Soldier and Republic of Korea KATUSA stand guard on the DMZ. Across the valley lies the North

7. Korean propaganda village built to showcase prosperity in one of the most repressive dictatorships in the world.
8. Gen. Paik, Sun Yup; the Republic of Korea's first four star general and chief of staff.
9. The growling tiger represents the hard fighting spirit of the Korean people.
10. Current realistic combat training by U.S. and ROK military forces.
11. Cpl. Ronald E. Rosser – Medal of Honor recipient for actions in the vicinity of Ponggilli, Korea, Jan. 12, 1952.
12. Sgt. Donn F. Porter – Medal of Honor (Posthumous) for actions near Mundung-ni, Korea, Sept. 7, 1952.
13. A U.S. machine gunner provides covering fire during training in Korea





HONORING A WAR HERO

KOREAN WAR VETERAN RECEIVES THE MEDAL OF HONOR

Story by Beth Reece, *Army News Service*

America's highest military honor was bestowed on Cpl. Tibor Rubin Sept. 23 as President George W. Bush draped the Medal of Honor around the 76-year-old's neck in a White House Ceremony. "He risked his life to protect his fellow American Soldiers...Those who served with Ted see him as a Soldier whose many acts of compassion helped his fellow GIs survive the nightmare of imprisonment," Bush said

"Many heroes are **remembered** in monuments of stone, but the monuments to Cpl. Rubin are a **legacy of lives.**"

- President George W. Bush



A HUNGARIAN JEW, RUBIN WAS FORCED INTO THE MAUTHAUSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP DURING WORLD WAR II AT THE AGE OF 13. MAY 5, 1945, HE AND OTHER PRISONERS WERE LIBERATED BY AMERICAN SOLDIERS. THEN AND THERE, HE MADE A PROMISE.

"I made a promise that I would go to the United States and join the Army to express my thanks," Rubin said.

Three years later he moved to New York and said "I do" to Uncle Sam. One year after that, the Army sent Rubin to fight in the Korean War with the 8th Cavalry Regiment's 3rd Battalion.

Rubin was taken prisoner by Chinese troops in the fall of 1950 at the tail-end of a three-day battle in Unsan. Having survived "a heck of a basic training from the Germans," Rubin breathed life into his fellow POWs. He is credited with saving as many as 40 lives at Death Valley and Pyoktong by providing food and nursing Soldiers through such sicknesses as dysentery, pneumonia and hepatitis.

"Every day, when it got dark, and we went to sleep, Rubin was on his way, crawling on his stomach, jumping over fences, breaking in supply houses, while the guns were looking down on him. He tied the bottom of his fatigue pants and filled up anything he could get a hold of," said Sgt. Carl McClen-don in his nomination of Rubin for the MOH.

"He'd go out of his way to do favors to help you survive," said Sgt. Leo Cormier, a fellow POW who traveled from Oregon to attend the ceremony. "I once saw him spend the whole night picking lice off a guy who didn't have the strength to lift his head. Ted did things for his fellow men that made him a hero in my book."

When the Chinese offered Rubin safe passage to Hungary, a Soviet satellite at the time, he defiantly turned them down.

"I wouldn't leave my American brothers when they needed me,"

Rubin said.

Rubin also protected his comrades on the battlefield. Oct. 30, 1950, he defended his unit with a machine gun, three Soldiers had already died manning. Earlier in the war, Rubin single-handedly defended a hill while his company withdrew on the Daegu-Pusan road.

When fellow Soldier Cpl. Leonard Hamm lay fallen after one of the unit's many battles, Rubin fought to go back for him when the first sergeant issued orders to leave him behind. Rubin was pinned down by snipers and forced to low-crawl for several hundred yards when rescuing Hamm, whose body was so loaded with shrapnel that he could hardly lift a limb.

"Rubin not only saved my life by carrying me to safety; he kept the North Korean snipers off our butts," said Hamm.

Hours before the ceremony, Cormier said he is both elated and relieved that Rubin is finally receiving national recognition for his bravery and sacrifices.

"I'm so happy for him I could cry. I want to be the first person to salute him," he said, wiping his eyes.

Rubin was nominated for the MOH four times by grateful comrades. Fellow Soldiers say Rubin might have received the medal five decades ago if not for a sergeant who failed to forward recommendations because of Rubin's Jewish and Hungarian heritage.

Rubin's award is being made under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, Section 552. The act called upon the secretaries of each military department to review the service records of both Jewish and

Hispanic American war veterans to see if they should have been awarded the MOH. Rubin's case was accelerated because of the wealth of eyewitness statements, Congressional support and because earlier recommendations on his behalf did not receive due priority.

Ever humble, Rubin said, "The real heroes are those who never came home. I was just lucky. This Medal of Honor belongs to all prisoners of war, to all the heroes who died fighting in those wars."

In a Pentagon ceremony later the same day, Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey unveiled a new Korean War plaque at the Hall of Heroes bearing Rubin's name. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld also presented Rubin with a MOH flag.

The Hall of Heroes pays honor to America's most noble Soldiers, and is located in the second-floor alcove of the Pentagon's seventh corridor. The hall showcases three versions of the Medal of Honor, as well as the names of MOH awardees.

"Many heroes are remembered in monuments of stone, but the monuments to Cpl. Rubin are a legacy of lives," Bush said.

In the years since Abraham Lincoln approved the MOH, "we've had many eloquent tributes to what this medal represents. But I like Ted's description. He calls it, 'The highest honor of the best country in the world,'" said Bush.

According to tradition, five-star generals and even the U.S. President must salute Rubin when he wears his medal. Rubin is the first Jewish-American who fought in the Korean War to receive the MOH.

Cheonggyecheon

Cutting between the shining skyscrapers and old-fashioned downtown markets, the return of the stream has been likened by older residents to the return of an old friend.

Story and photos by Spc. Daniel Love, Staff



Downtown Seoul has often been seen as a typical example of what people would call a concrete maze or urban jungle. The winding, bustling streets, skyline enhancing reflective towers, and enough smog to steal the sun's thunder make many residents and tourists alike feel anything but one with nature.

In Seoul's early days, the naturally formed stream was used as a place to release the flood waters during Korea's rainy seasons. The town had been severely flooded and its citizens needed a place to send waste water, so the stream served a double purpose.

Years ago, a stream bisected the area, which was essentially the whole city at the time. Japanese engineers decided Cheonggyecheon stream should be paved over in the mid-1930s to make a highway of the same name, leaving the water below flowing in the dark, mixed with sewer, polluted and unappreciated. The project wasn't completed until the end of 1961, long after Korea's liberation from Japan.

In Seoul's 600-year history, Cheonggyecheon has been a regular fixture. Reconstruction of the stream started in 2003, and with its return, it is getting quite a makeover. Previously there were 86 stone bridges connecting the two sides, but now there are only 22. Only one of the historic originals made of stone survived under the road.

The new ones are curvy and ornate, with both modern metal bridges and replicas of ones that were there before. The stream is filled with intensely purified water, a big part

of its appeal. Children could be seen walking in the water during the warm months.

The stream has parallel walkways on each side, which opened to pedestrians Sep. 30, followed by the Cheonggyecheon Festival Oct. 1-3. The paths feature fountains, modern art and decorative lighting. The walkway was popular with residents even during construction, and is now accommodating fitness enthusiasts from around the city.

In the first days the clean water flowed, so did the people near it. Thousands of citizens walked by the 3.5-mile stream in the days of the opening ceremony, but now the foot-traffic is manageable. The stream is particularly popular for parents and elderly citizens.

Due to the increased number of visitors to the area, lots of restaurants and shops are setting up venues in the area.

The area is popular with tourists as well, attracting restaurant chains and tourist shops. The area is still developing, so construction will be prevalent along the stream for the next few years.

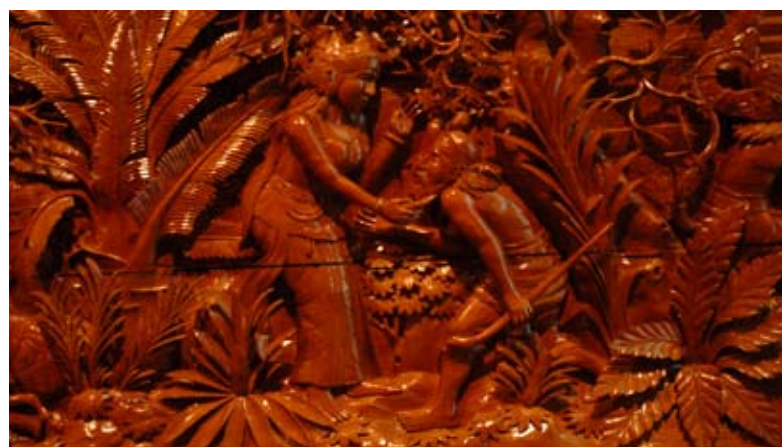
The stream and its pathways cut a very scenic course through the city. Walking along the path, pedestrians can get a feel for the old style of downtown Seoul. Touching the borders of Jongro and Dongdaemun, the stream is easily accessible from most downtown subway stations.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA



LIVING THE LIFE OF A NOMAD MAY BE
FINE FOR BEDOUINS, BUT FOR THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF KOREA IT
WAS PART OF A LONG, FRUSTRATING
JOURNEY TO FIND A HOME...

STORY BY PFC. FAY JAKYMEC



Left: The Bukgwan Daecheopbi is a monument erected in commemoration of a victory against Japanese invaders 400 years ago. Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein



Above: A Gold Crown from the Silla Dynasty. Photo by Pfc. Fay Jakymec Right: Ten story pagoda from the Goryeo Dynasty. Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein



The museum began in 1945 with a location inside Gyeongbokgung. It has moved six times since then and has recently found a new home in the newly completed building located in Yongsan.

Completed almost eight years to the day the organization broke ground in Yongsan, the building is settled amongst a serene park-like setting complete with a large reflecting pond.

The museum contains 59 national treasures and 79 other treasures. The collection is divided into six different galleries.

The Asian Art Gallery includes artwork from neighbor-

ing countries such as China and Japan. The two Korean art galleries include Buddhist sculpture and paintings, metal art, ceramics, lacquer ware and calligraphy.

The Donor's Gallery is filled with artifacts donated by private citizens. The Archeology Gallery has artifacts from the Paleolithic culture all the way to the ancient Korean Silla Kingdom.

The Korean History Gallery contains sections on the socio-economic life, religion and philosophy, and kings and nations. It also includes displays of old documents and has a room containing old manuscripts in Hangul.

In the Hangul Room there are documents written

in Huminjeongeum, which was used before Hangul was developed.

In addition to the galleries, the museum also offers a variety of cultural opportunities.

The Multi-Cultural Space offers the Yong (dragon) Theater which has a capacity of 805 seats and will host performances such as ballets, modern dance, Korean traditional music, jazz and pop concerts both Korean and international.

The museum also offers a children's museum and a library.

An example of the technological advancement of the

museum, mobile tour guides are available.

The mobile tour guides are available in a variety of languages and can give the visitor a better understanding of the exhibits. The rental fee is 1,000 WON for the MP3 form and 3,000 WON for version offering both audio and visual.

The hours for visitation are 9 a.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. through 7 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and holidays. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Admission is free until the end of the year and will be 2,000 WON as of the beginning of the new year.



*Left: A visitor walks over a bridge at the Korean Folk Village. Photo by Pfc. Fay Jakymec
Below: A view of Gyeongju's scenic overlook. Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Juan Gomez*



EXPLORING GYEONGJU

three days on the SK Corporation Friendship Tour:

By Pfc. Fay Jakymec, Staff

To fully understand a culture, it is important that one is immersed in it. Members of the United States Forces Korea were given that opportunity by SK, a major South Korean Corporation. Nearly 200 members of the Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy from all over the Peninsula gathered in Yongsan Oct. 12 to leave for the SK Friendship Tour.



Tour participants practice their newly learned archery skills. Photo by Pfc. Fay Jakymec

The first

stop on the tour was the National Youth Center of Korea. Used by Korean schools for school retreats, the center provided the participants with lessons in different cultural experiences. The classes that participants were allowed to take were horseback riding, pottery, archery, a lesson on older Korean instruments, martial arts and how to perform a tea ceremony.

After spending the day at the center, the tour headed to the Kolon Hotel in Gyeongju City. As the buses pulled up, they were greeted by members of the hotel staff waving Korean and American flags. A perfect ending to a day on the Friendship Tour.



Participants wait for the beginning of the instructions on how to perform a tea ceremony. Photo by Pfc. Fay Jakymec



The Dabu-Dong Battle site. Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein



Visitors to Bulguska Temple walk around the inner courtyard. Photo by Cpl. Sadie Bleistein

Day two

of the tour started bright and early with breakfast being served. After that, the participants filed onto the buses to tour the SK Ulsan Refinery Complex. The next stop on the tour was the Hyundai Heavy Industries Company where the Hyundai Company also builds massive ships. Lunch was a lush eight-course meal served on a bluff overlooking the ocean.

Once lunch was over, the members of the tour loaded onto the buses and headed to Bulguska Temple. Built in 528 A.D., the temple is a collection of pagodas and Buddhist shrines. It is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Korea.

Sokuram Grotto is a Buddhist shrine built in the 8th Century on Mount Toham. The shrine contains a massive granite statue of Buddha that overlooks the sea.



A view of the main pagoda at the Buguska Temple. Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Juan Gomez

The Last

day of the tour began with preparations for the trip back to Yongsan. The first stop on the way back was the Waegwan Dabu-Dong Battle site. The site contains a memorial dedicated to the South Korean and U.S. forces who fought there during the Korean War. Because of the two Nation's combined combat prowess, North Korea was unable to reach Daegu.

The next stop was the Korean Folk Village. Many found themselves gathered at the performance of the farmer's music and dance. After that, two girls gave a performance on a seesaw, jumping and twirling through the air. The afternoon was not over yet as a tightrope walker came out and performed a few acrobatic feats on the high wire.

The tour wound up at the Sheraton Walker Hotel in Seoul with a formal dinner attended by owners and CEO's of SK Corporation and Hyundai.

"I definitely have a profound appreciation for the Korean culture," said Marine Staff Sgt. Juan Gomez. I've only been here two weeks, but I can say my resolve to learn more about it has increased tenfold because of this tour."



Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program participants take a break during a white-water rafting trip held over the summer. *Courtesy photo*

Better Opportunitites for Single (and Unaccompanied)Soldiers Program has expanded role in Korea

By Pfc. Fay Jakymec, Staff

Every unit has its barracks rats. The term “barracks rats,” for the uniformed, refers to the Soldiers, who instead of taking advantage of living in a different country for a year or more, hang around the barracks or exclusively remain on base except for the brief sojourn to neighboring shopping areas set up outside of the base, which hardly qualifies as experiencing Korean culture.

The excuses for not venturing outside of the comfort zone are many. Ranging from “I don’t want to get lost” to “I don’t know where to go or how to get there,” these excuses are easily remedied. The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program will help you.

BOSS routinely schedules outings designed to immerse Soldiers into the culture and life of their host country.

“It also helps them to interact with the culture on the outside like horseback riding and mountain climbing. In October it’s beautiful, so we want to get the Soldiers out of the barracks and into the scenery,” said Spc. Danielle Colson, BOSS Area II president.

“Soldiers helping Soldiers. That’s it, just pleasing your fellow Soldiers. That’s what we bring to the table. We get to put a smile on somebody’s face. Instead of going to a bar to drink, we try to take them out (and experience some of the Korean culture),” said Spc. Shantel Nelson.

“Actually, in Korea it’s Better Opportunities for Single and Unaccompanied Soldiers because of our situation over here. Basically it’s open to everyone,” explained Colson.

To ease the transition and isolation many people can feel upon being stationed in, the BOSS program also holds parties and luaus on base to help newcomers meet other

people.

“We try to do a little bit of everything. Some community events, a lot of recreation events. Doing a lot of things based on what the Soldiers want- to go on trips. A lot of nights out, parties and luaus,” said Nelson.

The Recently the BOSS program from Yongsan placed second in the “Best Event” category at the Department of the Army BOSS forum held every year in Virginia.

“Korea as a whole, we did well at the conference. We got a lot out of it and hopefully, we’re going to be improving the program. We’re going to be bigger and better,” said Nelson.

With that in mind barracks rats may be giving up the barracks in the near future. With the help of BOSS, they can explore Korea.

Upcoming Events:

CAMP CASEY

- PX/DECA Advisory Council, Dec. 14, Second to None Club, 732-6246

YONGSAN

- Apollo Night, Dec. 10, at the Under Ground, 738-5466

- New Years Eve Party, Dec. 31, Main Post Club

CARROLL

- Holiday Party, at the Hide Away Club, 010-7265-3448

HIALEAH

- Open Mic Night, Every Wednesday, at Pusan Pub, 016-9214-9611

Monthly Korean Spouses Information Meeting

A support network for Korean wives of U.S. servicemembers will be held at the USO Dec. 20 from 5:30 -7:30p.m. The group meets the third Tuesday of every month.



Surviving Paintball

A participant in the Survivor Game signals to the other players that he has been shot. The next Survivor game is December 10 8:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Price is \$30 for military and \$35 for civilians. photo by Pfc. Fay Jakymec

LET US KNOW...

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE ROK STEADY. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR COMMENTS THAT YOU THINK WOULD HELP IMPROVE THIS PUBLICATION, SEND IT TO ROKSTEADY@KOREA.ARMY.MIL

BOSS

Area Points of Contact:

- Area I:
732-6896
- Area II:
738-5254
- Area III:
753-8825
- Area IV:
764-4123

Good Neighbor Program

USO Korea is looking for volunteers for Good Neighbor Programs. Help host Korean school children on post. This is a great opportunity to interact with kids from your host country. For more information, call DSN 724-7781

USO Tours and Events for December:

- 11th - KANGWHA ISLAND
Chundeung Temple, Ginseng and Bamboo Market
- 13th - PANMUNJON (DMZ) & TUNNEL
- 15th - PANMUNJON (DMZ) & TUNNEL
- 16th - CULTURAL TOUR
Kyunbok Palace, Changduk Palace (Secret Garden)
- 17th - SKI OVERNIGHT TOUR
Sorak Alps
- 18th - LOTTE WORLD AMUSEMENT PARK
- SURVIVAL GAME TOUR
- 20th - PANMUNJON (DMZ) & TUNNEL
- 22nd - PANMUNJON (DMZ) & TUNNEL
- 23rd - ONE DAY SKI TOUR
Yongpyong
- HOT SPRING OVERNIGHT TOUR
- 24th - EVERLAND SLEIGH & AMUSEMENT PARK
- 25th - SHOW AND DINNER
Korean Traditional Show at Chongdong Theater
- 29th - PANMUNJOM (DMZ) & TUNNEL
- 30th - Ski Overnight Tour
Sorak Alps
- 31st - Korean Folk Village
- Ichon Pottery Shopping Tour

